RISE IN PRICE OF EDIBLE OIL DUE TO MARKET INTERVENTION OPERATION

*3275. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the Retail Prices of Dhara and other edible oils during the last five months;

(b) whether delay in the reimbursement of Market Intervention Operation (MIO) losses by Government is one of the factors for rise in the prices of edible oils including Dhara; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to contain the prices of edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Retail Prices of Dhara during last 5 months are as follows :—

Retail Prices of Dhara brand of oils as on

(Rs./one litre pack)

	22-7-93	25-8-93	10-9-93
1. Refined Groundnut Oil	48	48	48
2. Double Filtered Groundnut Oil . .	38	41	42
3. Refined Mustard Oil	34	36	37.50
4. Double Filtered Mustard Oil . . .	32	34	36

*No change in prices of Dhara from 10th September, 1993 to date.

(b) The prices of Dhara are revised from time to time in tune with the loose oil price to prevent misuse of Dhara Oil. The pricing strategy of Dhara adopted by NDDB is based on their best commercial judgement and has no bearing on non-reimbursement of losses to NDDB.

(c) As per the revised terms and conditions recommended by ECOP for MIO for the final year of its operation i.e. 1993-94, NDDB would implement MIO during the year with stocks carried forward from the previous year and dispose of the groundnut oil by October, 1993. In pursuance of this, NDDB has been vigorously selling groundnut oil and mustard oil in several markets to have an impact on prices. Between April and October, 1993, approximately 65,000 MT of edible oils were disposed of by NDDB.

*Previously Unstarred Question 2289, transferred from the 20th December, 1993.

RAISING OF AMOUNT AT THE DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL CALAMITY FUNDS

3276. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise the amount at the disposal of the National Calamity Fund in view of frequent calamites occurring in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent the amount is being raised and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Scheme for financing the relief expenditure in the wake of natural calamities, is based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission appointed from time to time. Under the present Scheme,